



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Superintendents, Principals, and School Nurses

From: Steve Balko, Director of School Building Security

Date: September 22, 2022

Subject: Vision Screening Guidance

Indiana Code (I.C. 20-34-3-12) requires that all students in kindergarten or first grade as well as students in third, fifth, and eighth grades, including both in-person and virtual learners, receive a near and distant visual acuity screening. Schools must obtain a visual acuity reading for each student in the required grades, as well as students suspected of having a visual deficit.

Although it is best practice to complete vision screenings in the fall, Indiana law does not stipulate a specific date by which these annual screenings must be completed. Schools have until the end of the school year to complete the screening process.

If a student is enrolled at one school, but attends another (due to programming), it is the responsibility of the enrolling school to ensure the mandated screenings are completed and the results are reported to the Indiana Department of Education via the School Health Report at the end of the school year.

Near and Distant Visual Acuity Screening

- Schools are required to complete both the near and distant visual acuity screening in the required grade levels.
- Schools are encouraged to send requests to teachers and families asking them to refer students in the non-mandatory grade levels for a screening if they are suspected of having a visual defect.

Modified Clinical Technique (MCT) Vision Screening

- For students in kindergarten or first grade, an additional MCT vision screening by a licensed eye professional is required.
- Local optometrists, who serve as regional liaisons, are available to assist schools with locating eye doctors in their area. If schools are unable to locate an optometrist willing to perform the MCT vision screening at the school, schools are encouraged to contact their regional liaison. A list of regional liaisons can be found in the School Nurse Community of the IDOE Moodle Education Platform. Instructions for accessing Moodle can be found [here](#).



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- Under certain circumstances, Indiana state law does provide a waiver for the MCT portion of the vision screening. If schools are unable to obtain the services of a licensed eye professional by the end of this school year, a waiver can be requested by completing this [form](#). The waiver form will be open until June 15 of each school year and does not apply to the visual acuity screening requirement.
- Any second-grade student who has not previously received an MCT screening should be added to the list for MCT screening this year.

Please note that instrument-based screening tools do not meet the state requirements for students in grades K-12. Additional vision screening guidance can be found on the [IDOE Hearing and Vision Screening webpage](#).

Please contact Jolene Bracale at jbracale@doe.in.gov with any questions.